

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th April 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād" ... ..	Rājshāhye ...	.....	
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā" ... ..	Bhawānīpore ...	.....	
5	"Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh" ... ..	Cālnā ...	.....	
7	"Hindu Lalanā" ... ..	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....	
8	"Sahayogī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	1st and 15th April 1879.
10	"Banga Hitaishī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
11	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	658	10th April 1879.
12	"Bhārat Sanskārak" ... ..	Harinābhi ...	.....	
13	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
14	"Bishwa Dūt" ... ..	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....	
15	"Bardwān Prachārikā" ... ..	Bardwān ...	165	
16	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
17	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca ...	400	13th ditto.
18	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	1,168	11th ditto.
19	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	200	29th March 1879.
20	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca ...	300	29th March and 13th April 1879.
21	"Hindu Ranjika" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	26th March, 2nd and 9th April 1879.
22	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	11th April 1879.
23	"Pratikār" ... ..	Ditto ...	235	28th March and 11th April 1879.
24	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rangpore ...	250	20th and 27th March 1879.
25	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	516	13th April 1879.
26	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	14th ditto.
27	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad ...	.....	
28	"Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	
29	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	.....	8th ditto.
30	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta ...	5,500	12th ditto.
31	"Soma Prakāsh" ... ..	Bhawānīpore ...	700	
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
32	"Banga Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
33	"Samāchār Sudhābarshan" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
34	"Sambād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto ...	550	[1879. 9th to 11th and 14th and 15th April
35	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	9th to 15th April 1879.
36	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	625	
37	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	2nd to 5th and 14th April 1879.
38	"Arya Mihir" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
40	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	4th and 11th April 1879.
41	"Barisāl Vartābāha" ... ..	Barisāl ...	300	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
42	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	400	12th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
43	"Akhhār-ul-Akhiār" ... ..	Mazufferpore ...	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	9th ditto.
45	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	10th ditto.
46	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
47	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto ...	250	11th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

RANGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
March 27th, 1879.

1. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Rangpore Dik Prakash*, of the 27th March, on the Affghan War:—

“Yakub Khan, it appears, has determined to fight. The British, too, now that they have actually advanced to put down the pride of the indomitable Affghans, will not turn back until they have succeeded in introducing peace and order into Cabul, and in spite of the bluster therefore which, owing to his indiscretion, Yakub may indulge in for the present, he must, in the end, share the fate of the rulers of Sikkim and Bhutan and the Chief of the Lushais, for he is but weak. The case will, of course, be different if it be true that he is backed by some other power. Without, however, anticipating what the end of all this will be, it is enough to say that this war, which was quite uncalled for, has caused a heavy drain on the exchequer. Already about two crores of rupees have been spent, while there is no knowing how much more will be required before the affair is concluded. Considering the distress and the critical condition of the finances at the present time, it did not behove our Government to allow itself to be so far carried away by its anger and love of conquest as to embark upon an enterprise involving so much trouble and expenditure, and all for obtaining possession of a land covered with forests and inhabited by barbarians. Instead of this, some device for gradually bringing the Amir under the influence of the British Government ought to have been hit upon, thus settling the question of the safety of the frontiers; or if that was not practicable, preparations for a war ought to have been made at a subsequent period, having paid due regard to the state of affairs and the country. As it is, owing to the vast expenditure already incurred, it is found difficult to supply many real wants of the country. Government having been obliged, in consequence of the Cabul war, to make a reduction of expenditure and suspend public works, many labourers, and even clerks attached to the public offices, have been thrown out of employment. The war is thus seen to be adverse, rather than favourable, to the present interests of India. Nor is it only a temporary inconvenience in the present that we complain of; we apprehend greater evils in future. Considering that the exchequer labors under almost chronic deficits in spite of a multiplicity of taxes which are sucking dry the life-blood of the people, it is highly probable that a new tax will be imposed to meet the costs of this war; so that, it is clear, that this Affghan business will unsettle the people of India as surely as it will harass those of Affghanistan. What is done is done; and we would now ask that this country should not be saddled with any further expense.”

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
March 29th, 1879.

2. The *Gramvarta Prakashika*, of the 29th March, observes, in reference to the preparations for war that are being made by Yakub Khan, that however

large these may be, he will not be able to successfully defend Cabul against the attacks of the British army, and that the city will certainly fall into their hands. We, however, merely want to ask that, as in the last war in Europe, when the Russian Bear had seized its prey,—Turkey, the British Lion got a share by taking possession of Cyprus, so must Russia get a share of the spoils now when the British have made the conquest of Cabul? If she did not, is it not probable that she would go to war with England for this reason?

PRATIKAR,  
April 11th, 1879.

3. In an article on the Affghan war, the *Pratikar*, of the 11th April, makes remarks similar to those noticed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of our Report of the 5th April 1879.

The Affghan War.



4. On the war, the *Hindu Hitaishini* writes what has already appeared in paragraphs 8 and 5 of our last Report. HINDU HITAIISHINI,  
April 12th, 1879.

The Affghan War.

5. Referring to the report that Yakub Khan will not yield without fighting, the *Sahachar*, of the 14th April, deprecates any further prosecution of the war, SAHACHAR,  
April 14th, 1879.

The Affghan War.

as success will not bring any signal advantages to the victor; while, if the fighting continues, there will be considerable expenditure of money and loss of human life. We rest assured that eventually the British arms will be completely successful, for there is no army in the world which can match the British troops and British Generals. But the possibility of losses in the immediate, with no prospect of gain in the remote future, leads us to wish that there had been an end of this war; the more so, as Shere Ali, against whom it was declared, is no more. The case, however, would wear a different aspect if Yakub Khan refused to listen to the terms which might be proposed by the Government. In that event the war must continue, for the British Lion could not be expected to remain silent at the aggressiveness of a barbarian power. Barren successes however in the war will only saddle India with additional taxation.

6. Adverting to the negotiations which are said to be going on between the British Government and Yakub Khan, the same paper observes that such a policy should be adopted towards the Amir as would convince him that the Government really seeks his welfare, and that it has no wish to annex Affghanistan.

The Affghan War.

SAHACHAR.

7. Although, observes the same paper, considering the unsatisfactory state of the finances, the existence of famine and taxes, and the continuance of the Affghan war, a war with Burmah would not be desirable, still, if the anarchy which prevails and the cruelties that are being perpetrated in that country, continue unchecked for some time longer, Government will be obliged, though against its will, to interfere. Regarding the matter in the light of a "scientific rectification of the frontier," it would not, of course, be undesirable to have Burmah included in the British empire; but a consideration of the question of expenditure leads us to ask Government to use such pacific means as may induce the King of Burmah to make submission without being obliged thereto by means of war. If war be really unavoidable, care should be taken not to throw the whole of the expenses upon the shoulders of this poor country.

A war with Burmah

SAHACHAR.

8. Although, writes the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 15th April, the authorities in India are pressed for want of funds and have been directed by the Home Government to close the war, still they find themselves unable to do so. They are afraid of letting alone the serpent after having once poked it; while, on the other hand, they are embarrassed for want of funds. There is only one way out of the difficulty, and that is the replacement of the present Ministry by an abler and more disinterested one.

The Affghan War.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 15th, 1879.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

9. We take the following from an article in the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 26th March, headed—"The Courts of Justice":—The words addressed by a devotee to the presiding goddess of the River Ganges, that "she showed her real greatness in saving the sinful and not the virtuous, who were saved through their own merit," apply in a striking manner to the Courts which dispense justice at the present day. They would be true to their name if the poor and helpless were enabled to establish their rights by their means. As for the wealthy and the powerful, their position secures them against

How justice is administered.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
March 26th, 1879.



injustice, and even if wronged, they can easily obtain satisfaction by going to law. It is, however, to be regretted that owing to the complex procedure which obtains in the Courts, and the expensiveness of litigation, the poor and helpless, for whose benefit these institutions would seem to exist, are practically shut out from them. Now, suppose a poor man who owns a beegha of land is dispossessed by a wealthier relation. What is he to do? After exhausting all the resources of entreaty and remonstrance with the latter, he is obliged to go to law. Now, his complaint will not be received unless it be made in the prescribed form in writing and on stamped paper. Thus, at the outset, he has to engage a pleader, whom he must pay, and buy the necessary stamped paper. Expenses in connection with the service of summons, attendance of witnesses, and this it may be for days successively, and other matters, must next be borne. How is he to meet them? Then, again, the well-to-do rival, in case he loses the suit, has recourse to appeals, which, being still more expensive and involving greater harassment, oblige the poor litigant to forego his just rights. But how is the evil to be remedied? The editor suggests that Government should authorize all judicial officers, in cases where they are satisfied that the plaintiff is poor, to allow him to make his complaint orally, and pay the expenses of serving the summons, &c., from the Court. Nor should the stamp and other fees be required to be paid in such cases. In order to enable the officers correctly to determine whether a person is really poor, it should be competent in the former to accept a certificate from three or four respectable and leading inhabitants of his village; the latter should be held liable to punishment if the certificate were found to contain any false statement. Another suggestion made by the writer is, that in every village an educated and upright person of good social position should be appointed as an Honorary Magistrate, and vested with powers to try both criminal cases and civil suits. There should be appeals allowed to the Munsifs from their decisions, which however, owing to the intimate knowledge in the affairs of the village possessed by these honorary officers, and their own upright character, are likely to give more satisfaction than the judgments of Munsifs who are away from the scene of dispute. The existence of a newspaper press, and the growing disinclination of the people to put up with any injustice may be relied upon as due safeguards against any shortcomings on the part of these rural Magistrates.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
March 28th, 1879.

10. The *Murshidábád Patriká*, of the 28th March, reprints from the *Bhárat Mihir* an article on the license-tax,\* and observes that so far as this impost

is concerned, through the skill and ability of the Collectors, Government is deriving a larger income than might accrue from a strict collection of the tax only. Enormously high fines are inflicted, and this, too, in many cases where the parties punished were neither aware of the sums they were assessed at, nor ever asked for payment. Steps should be taken to make the parties concerned aware of their liability to pay the tax, and penalties, even when imposed, should be lighter than at present.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA.

11. The same paper contains a long article headed,—“A few Expressions of Regret.” The editor regrets that after a hundred years of uninterrupted happiness, hard times have come over the country, and at this time, under the administration of Lord Lytton, the people are kept perpetually uneasy. In an evil moment was Act IX passed; and unluckily for the country, Lord Lytton beset with fears the privilege of making memorials,—the only means of ventilating our grievances. The *Soma Prakásh*, the oldest of the native papers, has been held to have committed an offence under section 3 of the Vernacular

The Government and the *Soma Prakásh*.

\* See paragraphs 23 and 24 of our Report of the 29th March 1879.



Press Act. We do not know why, within so short a time, so many calamities have come upon us. The Bengalis,—a nation which voluntarily called in the British, whose power it established in the heart of the country; a nation which for a hundred years past has remained steadfast in its loyalty to the British rule, even through the Mutiny of 1857,—have been made uneasy at the present time. Doubtless it is their misfortune. Then follow comments upon the letter of the Lahore correspondent, published in the *Som Prakash* of the 24th February last, which are similar to those noticed in paragraphs 11 and 15 of our Report of the 29th ultimo.

12. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 29th March, objects to the system obtaining at the present time, under which young and inexperienced men are entrusted with judicial work. If pleaders of at least ten years' standing were only appointed as Munsifs, much of the discontent which exists in connection with the work of these officers would disappear. In this matter the editor agrees with Mr. Beveridge, who has somewhere expressed it as his opinion that persons of less than 30 years of age should not be vested with judicial responsibility. Government should attend to this point, as also to the question of increasing the salaries of the Munsifs. Until this is done, no improvement of the Judicial Service is possible.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
March 29th, 1879.

13. The same paper, in another article, regrets to notice that Government should have enforced the provisions of the Vernacular Press Act against the *Soma Prakash*, the oldest and the leading Bengali paper, and fears that the severe punishment inflicted upon it is intended to convey a lesson to other native journals. Regarding the letter in that paper which has furnished the ground of the action taken against it, the observations of the editor are similar to those noticed in paragraph 11 of our Report of the 29th ultimo.

HINDU HITASHINI.

14. In spite of spacious roads, palatial buildings, and the gas light, the condition of the people, observes the same paper, is one of abject poverty. Their sufferings have been aggravated by the multiplicity of taxes imposed upon them. The license-tax presses heavily on barbers and washermen. It is feared that the cost of the Affghan war will be thrown upon the people of this country. There is no efficient control exercised over the public expenditure. While the Comptroller-General would call for the accounts at least five times before an extra expenditure, if incurred in public, of one pice was passed, no notice is taken of the large amounts recklessly squandered. This wasteful expenditure is chiefly noticed in the Public Works Department. The Empire of Shah Jehan was not more extensive than that which acknowledges the British sway at the present moment. Still, why cannot our Government make a third of the saving which that Emperor was enabled to do? Of course, the British Government expends more for the benefit of the people, who are considerably happier than they were under the Mahomedans. But our happiness in all other respects sinks into insignificance when we reflect on the difficulty of earning a livelihood at the present time. It is true that under Shah Jehan there was neither gas light, supply of pure water, or good administration of justice, but the people did not know what want was. Would it not then look like ignoring the plain truth if the people were said to be happier under the present rule? Nor is it fair to speak of the public expenditure under Shah Jehan's reign as smaller than what it is at present. Did the Peacock Throne and the Tajmehal cost little?

HINDU HITASHINI.

15. The *Gramvarta Prakashika*, of the 29th March, devotes a long article to the subject of the recent action of Government towards the *Soma Prakash*. The

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
March 29th, 1879.



editor reproduces the observations noticed in paragraphs 11 and 15 of our Report of the 29th March, and concludes by exhorting all correspondents to be more temperate in their writings. In the case under consideration, the correspondent of the *Soma Prakásh* passed strictures on the British nation which are equally applicable to the natives of this country. Wherein are the English to blame? After having crossed the waters of the sea, they came to this land and delivered it from the oppressions of the Mahomedans. A nation of foreigners as they are, what they have done and are still doing for it ought to be thought enough. Native rulers would never have done as much. Even an average Englishman is possessed of a better heart than a native. To whom were the indigo oppressions mainly due? Certainly to the native employés in the indigo factories. So in the matter of recruiting labourers for the tea plantations; in the relations between landlords and tenants; in the police, the law courts, and other branches of the public service, it is everywhere the native who lords it over his less powerful fellow countryman. Since such is the case, instead of vilifying, we should respectfully ask our rulers to reform their shortcomings and accord us what is due to us.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 2nd, 1879

16. What has the *Soma Prakásh* done, asks the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 2nd April, that Government is about to suppress it? He would have deserved punishment had he published any seditious matter. As it is, the letter of the Lahore correspondent contains simple trash, and not any expressions of this nature. Although legally the *Soma Prakásh* cannot be held to have committed an offence, it is strange that Government is about to suppress it on the ground of its having infringed the law. The editor then explains what constitutes sedition according to the Indian Penal Code, and regarding the expressions used by the correspondent in the light of this definition, does not find anything in the letter to justify the step that has been taken by Government against the *Soma Prakásh*.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

17. The same paper expresses its dissatisfaction with the meeting lately held by the Indian Association to protest against the proposal to saddle India with the whole of the costs of the Affghan war. The members, it would seem, have asked the British nation to bear a portion of the expense. Now this memorial of the Indian Association is more likely to be injurious than beneficial; their willingness to pay a portion of the costs of the war will cut away all ground from under the feet of those who are making efforts to prevent them from being thrown upon this country. The promoters of the meeting ought rather to have supported the Opposition in Parliament, who contend that the war in Affghanistan having been undertaken for Imperial purposes, it is the British Exchequer which should pay for it. The meeting has done well in protesting against the abolition of the import duties. But even in this connection, the members have fallen into an error. They observe that the people of this country are opposed to all direct taxation in general, and to an income-tax in particular. Now this is not correct. As affecting but a few an income-tax ought to be popular, but it is opposed by the Anglo-Indian Press simply because it touches the pockets of Europeans. In short, the meeting held at the Town Hall will do more harm than good.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

18. The same paper is gratified to learn that Pundit Harshahaya, the dismissed Subordinate Judge of Furruckabad, has been reinstated in his post. By this measure Lord Lytton has restored the confidence of the people in the justice of the Government. This act of grace, however, would have been complete had His Excellency reproved—at least given a bit of good advice to—those Judges who did injustice to the poor man.

The case of Pundit Harsahaya.



19. A correspondent of the same paper notices six cases of illegal practice on the part of the constables of the Calcutta Police, in not one of which were the offenders condignly punished. The writer blames the native community of Calcutta for their indifference to this matter.

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 2nd, 1879.

20. Adverting to the service of summons by the Civil Court peons, the *Hindu Ranjiká* of the 2nd April, directs the attention of the authorities to the inconvenience which results to the parties in a suit from being always required to depute a man to accompany the process-serving peon for the purpose of pointing out the party named in the summons. The arrangement occasions considerable hardship and expense when, as is often the case, the party named in the summons resides in a far off locality. Considering that the officers of the police can execute their warrants without anybody having to point out to them the person concerned, it is not clear why the Civil Court peons should not be able to do their duty in this matter independently, the more so as they can do this if a small payment be made.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
April 2nd, 1879.

21. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial of the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 10th April, headed,—“Where is this to end?”:—The *Soma Prakásh* is no more, and the righthand of the vernacular press has been cut off. That Lord Lytton, the son of the author of *Rienzi*, himself a poet, should thus have destroyed with his own hand an important member of the newspaper press of a country, is verily a sad thought. The *Soma Prakásh* was the leader of the vernacular journals, and formed the Bengali language. The discontinuance of this journal will lead to the stoppage of others, for what is the use of their existence if they are not allowed to give expression to public opinion and to the wants and grievances of the people?

BHARAT MIHIR,  
April 10th, 1879.

22. The following observations are culled from another editorial in the same paper:—The more we reflect upon the condition of India, the sadder we become. Let us see what privileges we enjoy under the British rule. We enjoy security of life and property, good roads and railways: our cities are illuminated, the rivers are spanned with boats, and there are schools and roads in every village: we see and hear of things which we did not see or hear before. But along with these advantages, and co-existing with this many-sided progress, the Government of the country is in a lamentable condition. The exchequer is empty and the people are starving: the exchange on the one hand, and the war and the army charges on the other, are eating up the revenue: the Famine Fund has disappeared, and the prosecution of public works has been stopped: the public debt has grown to gigantic dimensions, and loans are yet called for. Government confesses its inability to control either the exchange or the famine, being calamities over which man has no power. But wherein lies the responsibility of the State if it is disclaimed in the case of wars, the exchange, and the famines? Is there then no remedy for the present condition of India? Should we have seen Government thus encumbered with debt and difficulties if it had firmly and impartially shaped its course, ever keeping justice in view? No other Government was ever before so troubled by famines, wars, and debt. But amidst all this darkness and disappointment, there is a ray of hope discernible, and that is the increasing interest now manifested in the affairs of India by the members of the British Parliament. The editor then refers to the recent motion of Professor Fawcett on the subject

BHARAT MIHIR.



of Indian finance, and concludes by saying that the people are not disloyal but want justice.

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI.  
April 11th, 1879.

23. In an article on the discontinuance of the *Soma Prakásh*, the *Murshidábád Pratinidhi*, of the 11th April, records observations similar to those noticed in paragraphs 11 and 15 of our Report of the 29th ultimo.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,  
April 12th, 1879.

24. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 12th April, notices the hardship that has been occasioned to the poor by the operation of the license-tax. The work of assessment has been most unsatisfactorily performed. Without caring to ascertain the actual earnings of a person, the assessors have based their estimates on the number of mouths he has to feed. Although nowhere provided in the Act, even those who are in the position of foremen of labourers have been assessed with the tax. The authorities are besought to make careful enquiries.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 13th, 1879.

Mr. Ashton and Purushottam  
Dharam Sháhu.

25. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 13th April, gives a long account of a case which occurred in the Bombay Presidency, in which Mr. Ashton, the Chief Judge of the High Court at Rajcote, most unlawfully directed the imprisonment of one Purushottam when the latter was suffering from indisposition and in spite of a medical certificate. The prisoner has made a petition to the Governor of Bombay praying for leave to sue Mr. Ashton. Does it not behove the upright British Government, asks the editor, to seek to reform the mental dispositions of these officers?

SADHARANI.  
April 13th, 1879.

The Indian Association and the  
attitude of the rulers to the people.

26. We extract the following observations from the opening article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 13th April:—The times are indeed very bad for us. As famines, plagues, and other natural calamities have, on the one hand, become almost of daily occurrence, so the rulers are, on the other, manifesting an increasing want of consideration. Instead of applying a healing balsam to our diseased and shattered frames, and consoling us in our sadness in this season of adversity, the one word that is ever on their lips is,—“Pay the taxes.” We, however, whether in prosperity or in adversity, are ever dependent on them. As a child runs to its mother when it has got a toy, equally when it is troubled by any fear, so we ever come to our rulers in our grief as well as in our happiness. But instead of taking us under its sheltering wings, Government has now in a rage cruelly spurned us away; hence it is that we say that the times are not favourable to us. Providence has long become adverse to India, and the Government, too, is daily showing an increasing want of sympathy. What shall we do then now? That a son of India, standing in the midst of his country, a land abounding in corn and wealth, and which is the garden of the universe, should find himself helpless in his difficulty, this indeed is a sad spectacle. To remedy this state of things, the educated and earnest among the people have established three or four associations. The editor then dwells on the usefulness of these bodies, and particularly of the Indian Association, which is the youngest in point of age, but is none the less active on that account. It represents the learning and intelligence of Bengal as surely as the wealth and power of the province are represented by the British Indian Association. Reference is then made to the services rendered by the Indian Association in the matter of the Civil Service agitation and the Vernacular Press Act. Its efforts in connection with the last measure have been attended with a partial success. Had it not been for the Indian Association, the Act would have been as quietly enforced as it was passed. As it was, the agitation made by this body convinced the British nation and the authorities in England that the Vernacular Press Act was passed without the consent of the people of India. Thus it was



that the Secretary of State was induced to relax certain of its more stringent provisions. The Indian Association is now about to send a delegate to England to represent to the British nation the views of the people of this country on the question of the import duties and the cost of the Affghan war. The article concludes with the observation that the rulers in India have, at the present time, assumed such an attitude that nothing can now save us except repeated representations to Parliament on the subject of our grievances. We must not too readily lose heart, for we are convinced that, no matter what our rulers here may feel, Parliament will see justice done to India.

27. The *Sahachar*, of the 14th April, wishes success to the exertions of the delegate whom the Indian Association has resolved upon sending to England for the purpose of protesting against the abolition of

The delegate of the Indian Association.

the import duties, but fears that Parliament having already declared itself in favour of the partial remission of the duties granted this year by the Government of India, the chances of success in this respect are but small; still considerable good will be done if the delegate be able, in respectful language, to convince the British public of the present unsatisfactory condition of our finances.

28. The same paper contains another article on the comparison made by Professor Fawcett between the Government of the East India Company and that of the Queen, and observes:—"No other body of men

The Queen's Government vs. that of the East India Company.

in this world has ever been able to do what the East India Company have done. Not to speak of good administration, the Company knew what cheap administration was. It is true they had to incur debt, but they had always wars on their hands. The *sunnuks* had also to be renewed periodically. Parliament then used to enquire into the working of the administration, and thus the Ministers were not able to grow despotic. There were no direct taxes under the Company. Still it must be admitted that the present *regime* is in many respects superior to their system of administration. There were indeed schools in the days of the Company, but as soon as any deficit occurred, the educational charges were the first to be reduced. As to judicial and administrative work, it was somehow managed. Sub-divisions were created after the Government had been transferred to the hands of the Queen. The people now enjoy security of life and property. There is considerable expenditure incurred for the purposes of education. The Company indeed wanted to introduce railways, but ordinarily they were not willing to spend anything on the construction of roads. In many matters they had a policy of makeshifts. We doubt whether, if the Company had remained in power, we would have seen half the roads, railways, and canals which have been constructed at the present time. The rulers now strive to do by all means in their power what they have once determined to do, and have given up their policy of *laissez faire*. But although we are indebted to the Company for many things, we would not have a revival of its power. It fell in the fulness of time after having done its appointed work. The fault of the present system is that it is attended with constant changes. This the people do not like. change of policy takes place with a change of Viceroy, while vast sums are expended on trying administrative experiments. We are almost sure that had the Company remained in power, such large sums would not have been expended on barracks, while the annual exodus to Simla would have been an impossibility. As far as progress is concerned, what has been made under the Government of the Queen is considerable. Under the present system, however, the Secretary of State possesses almost unlimited powers; and practically no check exists upon the actions of the Ministers. Although, therefore, we do not desire to see a return of the Company's power, still it must be admitted that the relations subsisting

SANACHAR,  
April 14th, 1879.

SANACHAR.



between the Government of India and the Secretary of State should be altered. There will be no end of deficits and distress until it is ruled that not a single *pice* of expenditure shall be incurred without the consent of the Government of India. In all matters India should be regarded as a separate empire. It is for these reasons that the people in one voice demand that Viceroys should remain for a considerable period of time in this country, and that England and India should have separate armies.

SAHACHAR,  
April 14th, 1879.

29. The same paper remarks that although the State Railways in India have been cheaply constructed still being made upon the narrow gauge, it is to be feared their carrying capacity will not, in times of pressure, be found adequate. The transfer of rolling-stock from one line to another is also found to be impracticable, and this means delay, needless expense, and trouble. Railways were originally constructed with chiefly two objects in view,—namely (1) to facilitate trade and (2) the transport of troops. Now not one of these will be attained by means of a State railway constructed upon a narrow gauge. Except the Government Engineers almost all others condemn these lines, which must in time be constructed anew on the broad gauge, and this will cause needless expenditure. Now that certain lines are about to be made, it is to be hoped that the broad gauge will be availed of.

30. After dwelling on the undoubted loyalty of the people of India to the British rule, and expressing his regret at the discontinuance of the *Soma Prakāsh*, the same paper points out what he conceives to be one great defect in the Vernacular Press Act, and asks Government to remove it as soon as possible; otherwise any native newspaper may at any moment, like the *Soma Prakāsh*, cease to exist. This is the provision under which, on the repetition of the offences mentioned in the Act, the sum put down in the bail-bond is held to be forfeited to Government, together with the printing press and other materials connected with the paper. Now this is very hard. There should be specific penalties laid down for specific offences. For this purpose it should be sufficient if, on a repetition of the offence for which a bail-bond was demanded, the sum mentioned in it were only held to be forfeited. The censorship clauses also should be revived. It behoves Government to reconsider these matters.

SAHACHAR.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 15th, 1879.

31. The *Ananda Bazar Patrikā*, of the 15th April, laments the discontinuance of the *Soma Prakāsh*, which for about twenty years rendered such signal services to the country. It has fallen a martyr to the cause of the people, who silently mourn its loss.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

32. The same paper learns from the *Indian Herald*, that a native was fired at by an European who had mistaken him for a bird. The man has been cured, and the offender fined three rupees. These accidents being of frequent occurrence, steps should be taken to prevent them. There is one thing striking in these matters, and that is, that native *shikaris* have never been found to make such mistakes.

#### EDUCATION.

33. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 10th April, remarks that there cannot be a doubt that Sir Ashley Eden is a true friend of female education. His Honor is taking various steps for the promotion of this object in the Presidency Division. The latter is, no doubt, the foremost province in Bengal, but it does not represent the interests of the whole country. Nothing particularly is being done in this respect in the mofussil. His Honor is besought to attend to the matter.

BHARAT MIHIR.  
April 10th, 1879.

Sir Ashley Eden and the education of females.



## LOCAL.

34. A correspondent of the *Rangpore Dik Prakash*, of the 20th March, signing himself as Sridhar Sen, notices with regret that a certain Judicial Officer in the district of Burdwan, is so given up to licentious habits, that whenever any female who is possessed of any personal charms has occasion to appear in the Court, his peon is instructed to keep her in his custody. Instances have also been reported in which such females were even forcibly detained. The officer in question is always anxious, in cases in which females happen to be interested, to secure their personal attendance in the Court.

RANGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
March 20th, 1879.

35. The *Murshidabad Patrika*, of the 28th March, notices with regret that Baboo Rajkrishna Banerjee, the Sub-Registrar of Berhampore, a gentleman well known for his ability, honesty, and courtesy, is about to be transferred to Noakholly, and his post at this place abolished, the work being entrusted to some officer who is weighted with many other duties. The arrangement will occasion extreme inconvenience and hardship to the inhabitants, who could still have borne his loss if transfer meant promotion; but that is not the case. The authorities are besought to reconsider the matter.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
March 28th, 1879.

36. The *Pratikar*, of the 28th March, writes similarly on the same subject.

PATRIKA,  
March 28th, 1879.

37. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 9th April, dwells on the wretched state of the roads in and about Govindgunge, in Rungpore, an important trade centre and the seat of a sub-registry office, a post office, and cutcherries of some big zemindars. The roads have not seen any repairs for a long time past, and are, in most places, covered with dense jungle. Government is asked to order the needful repairs, as also the construction of certain new communications.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
April 9th, 1879.

38. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 10th April, dwells on the hardship that has been caused by the inequitable assessments, under the License-tax Act, in the district of Mymensing, particularly in the Tangail, Jamalpore, and Sudder sub-divisions. Corruption and bribery prevailed to a fearful extent; and there has been no end of oppressions on the poor. Now that the tax is going to enter upon the second year of its existence, it may be hoped that the errors of the first year will now be rectified. The editor is thankful to Mr. Alexander, the new Magistrate, for the consideration he has shown to the injured.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
April 10th, 1879.

39. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 10th April, notices in its columns of news a fearful outbreak of cholera in the villages around Furreedpore.

BHARAT MITRA,  
April 10th, 1879.

40. The *Dacca Prakash* considers the outlook to be a gloomy one. The disavour of Government and the recurrence of divine visitations have made the people quite uneasy. The peasantry are making loud complaints for want of rain. The sowing operations cannot go on, the land is parched with heat, nor does it appear likely that it will rain soon. The prices are high, and the heat is oppressive. Fever and cholera are raging virulently.

DACCA PRAKASH.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,  
*Bengali Translator.*

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